encouraging progress has been made in this regard, but no commercial agreements have as yet been concluded for joint bidding by ONGC Videsh Ltd. and any Russian oil major for oil and gas blocks in Russia.

(c) In respect of Sakhalin-I project, OVL will get a share in production as per the formula given in the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA). Limited production of oil and gas from the project is expected from 2005-06 and full production is expected from the last quarter of 2006-07.

US'S assistance in energy sector

2889. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has offered its help to India to meet the energy requirements in the next decade through new and sophisticated technologies in this field; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of crude oil

†2890. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual production of crude oil in tonnes in the country at present;

(b) the total import of oil in tonnes;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to increase crude oil production in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total domestic production (provisional) of crude oil during 2004-05 is 34.05 Million Metric Tonne (MMT).

(b) The import of crude oil during the above period was about 95.315 MMT (provisional).

(c) and (d) Several important steps have taken to increase oil and gas production to meet the domestic requirements. These include the following:—

(i) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, in particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;

(ii) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Under the four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks. The Fifth Round of NELP has been declared open as of 4th January, 2005 to invite bids for 20 exploration blocks; The bids close on 31.5.2005.

(iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;

(iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

Production of natural gas

2891. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of natural gas produced from different sources in the